

Message Text

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62
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-04 ARA-06 EUR-12 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /091 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:BW BROWN:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER
IO/UNP:CWSCHALLER (PHONE)

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P 140022Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH PRIORITY

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TAGS: O, UNGA

SUBJECT: INDIAN VOTE ON ASEAN RESOLUTION

1. ACTING NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER ON DECEMBER 13 CALLED IN INDIAN DCM GONSALVES (AMBASSADOR KAUL BEING OUT OF TOWN) TO REGISTER US REACTION TO INDIAN VOTING ON KHMER ISSUE. SOBER STATED THAT, WHILE WE HAD NOTED INDIA ABSTAINED RATHER THAN OPPOSED ASEAN RESOLUTION, USG FELT "GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT" AT INDIAN POSITION, AND THE SECRETARY HAD ASKED THAT THIS BE CONVEYED TO GOI. IN US VIEW, INDIAN FAILURE TO SUPPORT ASEAN RESOLUTION APPEARED TO DISREGARD DESIRES OF INDIA'S SEA NEIGHBORS WHILE FOLLOWING, IN NAME OF NON-ALIGNMENT, POSITION WHICH MANY OTHER NON-ALIGNED IGNORED. TO US, ASEAN RESOLUTION SEEMED CLOSE TO PRINCIPLES OF UN CHARTER WHICH INDIA HAS STRONGLY UPHELD, AND WE WONDER WHY INDIA COULD NOT HAVE SUPPORTED IT. SOBER EXPRESSED HOPE INDIA WOULD VOTE AGAINST ANY CHALLENGE TO GKR CREDENTIALS WHICH MIGHT ARISE DURING REST OF THIS UNGA.

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2. GONSALVES RESPONDED THAT ASEAN COUNTRIES HAD SEEMED

"REASONABLY SATISFIED" WITH INDIAN ABSTENTION, ONLY SUCH VOTE AMONG ALL SOUTH ASIANS. WHILE INDIA NOT BOUND LEGALLY BY NON-ALIGNED POSITIONS, THEY ARE "TAKEN

SERIOUSLY" BY INDIA. FURTHERMORE, INDIA WAS UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE FROM NON-ALIGNED SUCH AS ALGERIA AND YUGOSLAVIA. GONSALVES WANTED TO KNOW HOW MANY OTHER STATES WERE BEING CALLED IN BY DEPARTMENT AND WHETHER INDIA WAS BEING "DISCRIMINATED AGAINST" IN THIS REGARD. WITHOUT DIVULGING NAMES OF OTHERS, SOBER ASSURED HIM THAT THERE WERE OTHER "FRIENDS OF US" TO WHOM WE WERE EXPRESSING OUR GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT. (FYI: LIST INCLUDES PAKISTAN AND NEPAL. END FYI). IN RESPONSE TO SOBER'S LAST POINT, GONSALVES DID NOT FORESEE ANY FURTHER CHALLENGE ON KHMER ISSUE DURING THIS UNGA. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MEETING VOTING RECORDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE274660
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BWRROWN:LAB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740363-0536
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741234/aaaabcbu.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <27 MAR 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIAN VOTE ON ASEAN RESOLUTION
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, IN, UNGA
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005